

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 1

Opening, Call to Order, Roll Call, Approval of Agenda, Approval of Minutes, Formal Public Comment, Committee Reports from State Board Members, TELL Delaware Survey Update, Literacy Campaign Information, Statewide Review of Educational Opportunities, Secretary's Report, Showcase of Innovation – Educator Equity Overview of Delaware's Plan Development

Meeting called to order at 1:02 p.m. The following members of the State Board were present: Teri Quinn Gray, President; Jorge L. Melendez, Vice President; Gregory B. Coverdale, Jr., G. Patrick Heffernan, Barbara B. Rutt; and Terry M. Whittaker. Vice President Jorge Melendez arrived right after roll was called. Secretary of Education Mark Murphy was present to serve as the Executive Secretary for the State Board and the Board's Executive Director, Donna Johnson, was also present.

Attached is the sign in sheet of attendees for the Board meeting. The agenda was approved as presented. The motion was made by Mr. Coverdale and seconded by Mr. Melendez. The motion carried unanimously by voice vote.

Minutes from the work session of April 16, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the minutes of the work session as presented. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried by voice vote. Mr. Coverdale abstained.

Minutes from the regulation meeting of April 16, 2015 were distributed prior to the meeting. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the minutes of the regular meeting as presented. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried by voice vote. Mr. Coverdale abstained.

Frederika Jenner, President of the Delaware State Education Association, provided public comment on the proposed changes to DPAS. She noted that the evaluation system has been altered every year since 2010. Survey data shows the decline in the satisfaction of the system by educators. Teacher satisfaction alone has declined to 29% from 69% with specialists and administrators views showing a decrease in their satisfaction of DPAS. Ms. Jenner stated that the appraisal system does not help teachers or give important feedback and requested that the revisions to Regulation 106A and 107A not be approved. She also referenced revising the entire system and piloting a new system before a full rollout.

Board members highlighted their monthly activities. Dr. Whittaker represented the State Board at the Superstars Dinner sponsored by the Delaware Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Melendez represented the State Board at the Secretary's Scholars' Dinner and Mr. Coverdale attended a NASBE Board of Directors' virtual meeting. Other Board members commented on the Board's recent retreat and the professional development received and the meaningful discussions as most of the Board was in attendance. Mr. Heffernan commented on a visit to Gateway Lab School and Dr. Gray offered congratulations to Mr. Coverdale who recently received his MBA in Finance from Delaware State University.

Ms. Johnson provided the Board with a summary of her recent trip as part of a national delegation that visited many schools in Germany. Dr. Gray met with the second cohort of Next Generation Science teachers and heard keynote speaker Dr. Jim Gates. She also commented on

HB 50 and read from a joint statement from many organizations noting the views of the civil rights community on the importance of testing to know how students are faring.

Ms. Johnson provided comments on the TELL Delaware Survey and noted the Board's view which was to proceed with the survey without the additional questions that were proposed by DSEA and DASA. The survey was not distributed this year but it is planned to be released in 2016. It was also announced that the next meeting to discuss the Statewide Review of Education Opportunities was scheduled for June 1st and would convene educational stakeholders.

Secretary Murphy provided his monthly report. He began by thanking the members of the State Board for their active engagement which is highlighted every month from their reports. He also noted that many of the successes the Department sees today are from initiatives that began years ago noting that the dropout rate at an all-time low and the graduation rate is increasing. The Board was informed of a recent CTE grant that will be distributed to 24 high schools for CTE pathways. He also spoke of the increase in students taking and passing AP biology and the increase in students applying for college.

Educators at Catalyst – Educator Equity – Overview of Delaware's Plan Development

The Board received a presentation from Christopher Ruszkowski on Delaware's Plan Development for Educator Equity. Joining Mr. Ruszkowski was Atnre Alleyne. The Department's draft will be submitted on June 1st to the U.S. Department of Education. The equity gap plan has been requested of all states as educator effectiveness is the single most important school factor affecting student achievement as recent studies demonstrate that equity gaps continue to endure for students from low income and minority backgrounds. The Board was provided with the six requirements in the federal guidance. Mr. Alleyne provided data on teacher experience gaps, teacher turnover gaps and teacher effectiveness gaps. The presentation highlighted frequent named root causes which includes school leadership, educator preparation, recruitment, mentoring, and compensation. The presentation concluded with strategies and solutions for eliminating the educator equity gap.

The Board briefly recessed from 2:46 p.m. to 3:01 p.m.

State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 2 Technology Update, Department Regulations

Technology Update

Michael Watson, Wayne Hartschuh, Pat Bush and Reese Robinson provided the State Board with a technology update that addressed the Ed Insight Dashboard and its Early Learning Insight Dashboard. The Department plans to also submit its application for the 2015 SLDS Grant in June. The Board was briefed on the new Learning Management System Schoolology which addresses personalized learning, provided professional development. Fifteen districts and 8 charter schools have signed up for Schoolology in 2015-2016. The Board requested a presentation on how teachers are using Schoolology in the future.

Department Regulations

Tina Shockley, the Department's Policy Advisor, presented the Department's regulations

Regulation 1105 School Transportation - For Action

The regulation was presented for action. It was noted that the regulation is being amended to align with changes in Title 14 of the Delaware Code including, but not limited to, the maximum age of a school bus for use on a regular route, criminal background checks, and the process for training school bus drivers. It will also add a mandatory in-service training program for school bus drivers and aides, as well as prorated funding. The Secretary seeks the consent of the State Board to amend Regulation 1105. The motion was made by Mr. Heffernan, seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board signed the appropriate order. School Transportation Education Associate Ron Love was also present to answer questions by the State Board.

Regulation 902 Gifted and Talented Education Plan

This regulation is for discussion and states that the extent of programs and facilities provided for children determined to be gifted or talented shall be in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Department. This regulation is currently being advertised and will be presented for action next month.

Regulation 106A, 107A and 108A, Delaware Performance Appraisal System (DPAS) II Teachers/Specialists/Administrators

Laura Schneider joined Ms. Shockley and provided the Board members with the proposed changes to the regulations as well as the feedback received from the DPAS Advisory Committee. These regulations are also being advertised and action will be proposed next month.

The Board recessed from 4:31 p.m. to 4:37 p.m.

**State Board of Education Meeting Audio – Part 3
Charter School Items, Professional Standards Board, Clarification on Request for
Forgiveness of Days/Hours, Appeals**

Charter Schools

Jen Nagourney from the Charter School Office provided the charter items. She provided the timeline for the renewal process for the three schools up for renewal in the fall. She also provided an update on probationary and renewal conditions previously placed on Family Foundation and Odyssey Charter School. The Board also received an update on the latest percentages for charter enrollment. .

Professional Standards Board

Christy Greaves, Vice Chair of the Professional Standards Board, presented the PSB items. She was joined by Stephanie DeWitt, who is also a member of the Professional Standards Board.

Regulation 1560 Art Teacher

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, seeks the consent of the State Board of Education to amend DE. Admin. Code 1560 – Art Teacher. This regulation shall apply to the requirements for a Standard Certificate, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1220(a), for Art Teacher. This certification is required for grades K to 12 and this regulation is being reviewed under a five year cycle. A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to approve the publication of this regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously.

Regulation 1563 Music Teacher

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, seeks the consent of the State Board of Education to amend DE. Admin. Code 1563 – Music Teacher. This regulation shall apply to the issuance of a Standard Certificate, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1220(a), for Music Teacher. This certification is required for grades K to 12 and this regulation is being reviewed under a five year cycle. A motion was made by Mr. Melendez to approve the publication of this regulation. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously.

Regulation 1564 Physical Education Teacher

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, seeks the consent of the State Board of Education to amend DE. Admin. Code 1564 – Physical Education Teacher. This regulation shall apply to the issuance of a Standard Certificate, pursuant to 14 Del.C. §1220(a), for Physical Education Teacher. This certification is required for grades K to 12 and this regulation is being reviewed under a five year cycle. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the publication of this regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Heffernan and carried unanimously.

Regulation 1571 Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, seeks the consent of the State Board of Education to amend DE. Admin. Code 1571 – Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities. This regulation shall apply to the issuance of a Standard Certificate, pursuant to 14 Del. C. §1220(a), for Special Education Teacher of Students with Disabilities (Category). This certification is required for an educator within the Delaware public school system whose primary assignment is teaching children with disabilities in grades K to 12. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the publication of this regulation. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried unanimously.

Regulation 1595 Certification Program for Leader in Education

The Professional Standards Board, acting in cooperation and collaboration with the Department of Education, seeks the consent of the State Board of Education to amend DE.

Admin. Code 1595 – Certification Program for Leader in Education. This regulation will streamline the process and also reduce the timeline for approvals. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to approve the publication of this regulation. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously.

Regulation 1590 Delaware Administrator Standards

It was noted that this regulation did not get published in the Registrar so it will be discussed at the Board's June State Board meeting.

Clarification on Action – Request for Forgiveness of Days/Hours

It was explained that at the last State Board meeting action was taken to forgive educators and high school seniors the two days that State Offices were closed throughout the State. The motion for that forgiveness did not use the word “educator” but the word “teacher” which has caused some confusion among the districts even though the intent of the motion from the discussion was for educators. A motion was made by Dr. Whittaker to clarify that action and forgive the two days the State was closed for educators and high school seniors. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote.

Appeals and Reviews

Executive Session

D.H. v. Polytech 2014-05

A motion was made by Mr. Melendez that the State Board go into Executive Session for the purposes of considering this student appeals and the students' pupil file. The motion was seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board entered into Executive Session at 5:27 p.m.

The Board returned to open session on a motion by Mr. Coverdale. The motion was seconded by Mr. Melendez and carried unanimously by voice vote. The Board returned to open session at 5:47 p.m.

A motion was made by Mr. Heffernan that having read and considered the records of the proceedings below, including the hearing transcripts, any submissions to the hearing officer including exceptions and comments filed by the parties, and the Proposed Order and it appearing the decision is fully supported by the record, free of legal error, and otherwise within the Board's powers, the Proposed Orders of the Hearing Officer be accepted and adopted as the Decision and Order of the State Board of Education. The motion was seconded by Mr. Coverdale and carried by roll call vote. (Ayes: Mr. Coverdale, Mr. Heffernan, Mr. Melendez, Mrs. Rutt, Dr. Gray. Nays: Dr. Whittaker). The State Board signed the appropriate Order.

Adjournment

There being no further business, a motion was made by Mr. Heffernan to adjourn the meeting. The motion was seconded by Dr. Whittaker and carried unanimously by voice vote.

May 21, 2015

The meeting adjourned at 5:49 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education

Executive Session
Appeals and Reviews

Ilona Kirshon, Deputy Attorney General highlighted the appeal item.

Since school disciplinary matters are confidential the Board entered into Executive Session pursuant to 29 *Del. C.* § 10004(b)(7). The motion was made by Mr. Melendez, seconded by Mrs. Rutt and carried unanimously. The Board went into Executive Session at 5:27 p.m. The Board discussed the appeal with Ms. Kirshon. The Board returned to open session at 5:47 p.m.

Respectfully Submitted;

Mark T. Murphy, Executive Secretary
and Secretary of Education